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by giving the text of the most important laws; to record every act or portion of an act bearing on education and to provide the information necessary for finding the text of the act; to analyze and make intelligible this legislation; and to present special types of legislation for the different states.

In the treatment of educational legislation in New York Miss Hobson makes a brief survey of "formative influences" and traces the development of the dual system of control to 1820. The subject then naturally differentiates into a consideration of secondary and higher education and of the common school system. There are chapters on special legislation for cities, school support, and education for special classes. Four valuable appendixes include a chronological list of academies, a list of acts granting support to academies, a list of educational societies, and a list of titles and dates of acts relative to education.

The author says that her work is "little more than a chronicle of legislation and an exposition of results." The limitations due to the character and scope of the work are obvious. It is manifestly impracticable to print any considerable number of the nine hundred and seventy-five laws listed; it is, however, greatly to be regretted that the most significant of these laws are not given in their actual and complete form. The extensive quotations and accurate summaries do not supply the need of the scholar for the complete document, especially where the different provisions of the act are taken up under the various topics to which they relate. The use of different type for quotations from laws and reports is a desideratum. The monograph, however, undoubtedly adds very largely to the knowledge of educational legislation, constitutes in its particular field a valuable history of education in New York, and is an important contribution to early American educational history.

Proceedings and collections of the Wyoming historical and geological society for the year 1918. Edited by Christopher Wren. (Wilkes-Barré, Pa.: Printed for the society, 1919. 335 p. \$4.00)

This is a volume for the antiquarian rather than for the historian. The pioneers of the Wyoming valley may find it pleasant reading and he who uses a sprinkling pot to irrigate genealogical trees may be rewarded with a few new shoots which otherwise would never have seen the light, but the historian will find little in it to pay him for the hours spent in perusal of the volume.

Only two portions of the book have distinct historical value. In the section entitled "Some early recollections," Mr. George R. Bedford has allowed himself to be reminiscent regarding his legal colleagues and conditions in the Wyoming valley before and during the civil war. Mr. Bedford's retentive memory has brought back vividly the manners and

customs of a bygone generation and well does he remember the early town of Wilkes-Barré. It is interesting to know that men used to wear shawls instead of overcoats and that women wore woolen socks instead of rubbers. It is pleasant to welcome the soldiers returning from the Mexican war and to watch the circus parade, even though the elders would not let the boy get inside the tent. It is not so pleasant to climb on a roof to get a good look at a hanging in the jail yard and it makes one a bit melancholy to visit the village graveyard in which the "shining white marble and polished granite shafts were absent." But we soon regain our spirits by attending dances and picnics, even though there was a prejudice against "round dancing." The sleigh ride and the bottle of champagne which he found "then and since agreeable to the taste" enable us to lay aside the "Recollections" with a feeling of amiability.

Mr. Lyman Belding, a California ornithologist who died in 1917, left an autobiography. Mr. Belding spent a few years of his boyhood in the Wyoming valley, hence the appearance of the autobiography in the *Proceedings* of the society. A healthy spirit of outdoor life runs through the sketch which would make it fairly good material, if properly revised, for some nature study magazine. But only one part of it is of interest to the historian. In 1851, Mr. Belding shipped on a whaler. Those were the days "when the American clipper ship was in its glory." From New Bedford to the Azores and down the African coast sailed the good ship *Uncas*, then around the Cape of Good Hope and over to New Zealand. Guam, the sea of Japan, Behring sea, Petropavlovski and Honolulu were visited and at the last named place the sailor deserted. On the *Julian* he coasted Mexico and South America and returned to Honolulu, where he shipped on the *Philomela*, which brought him to New York by way of the Horn in 1854. The story is well told and gives a vivid picture of the whalers of the fifties.

Under the title "Royalty in Wyoming valley nearly a century and a quarter ago," Oscar J. Harvey has written a superficial sketch of Louis Philippe and his family. The fact that the prince spent three or four days in the valley and that when he was king of France he patronized George Catlin and a band of Iowa Indians appear to be the excuses for the paper. The extracts from the diary of Elder David Dimock and the biographical sketches of the deceased members of the society are of interest only to the genealogist and to the local historian.

T. M. MARSHALL